

Message Text

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54

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 IO-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01 ACDA-05 /067 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4150

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 895

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0729

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SF, RH, MZ

SUBJ: VORSTER SPEAKS ON SA RELATIONS WITH RHODESIA
AND MOZAMBIQUE

REF: CAPE TOWN 0728

GABORONE ALSO FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM

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1. IN HIS ADDRESS AT NIGEL NOVEMBER 5 (REFTEL), PRIME MINISTER VORSTER DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE TIME TO RHODESIA AND MOZAMBIQUE.

2. HE STATED THAT SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE WOULD REMAIN IN RHODESIA AS LONG AS THERE WAS "TERRORIST" THREAT TO SOUTH AFRICA. HE MAINTAINED THAT POLICE ("AND I WILL SPELL IT OUT, THE POLICE-- NOT THE ARMY--") WERE SENT TO RHODESIA SEVERAL YEARS AGO NOT "TO FIGHT RHODESIA'S WAR OR TO PROTECT AND SAFEGUARD RHODESIA," BUT TO "FIGHT THE TERRORISTS ON THE WAY TO SOUTH AFRICA ON THE ZAMBEZI INSTEAD OF THE LIMPOPO."

3. VORSTER SAID HE WAS TIRED OF EMPHASIZING THAT IT HAD NEVER BEEN SOUTH AFRICA'S POLICY TO PRESCRIBE FOR RHODESIA OR TWIST ITS ARM. RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT MAKING ITS OWN DECISIONS. THERE WERE, HOWEVER, CONTACTS BETWEEN SAG AND SMITH GOVERNMENT, DISCUSSIONS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, AND EXCHANGE OF ADVICE.

4. COMMENT: HEADLINE IN TODAY'S CAPE TIMES SAYS CATEGORICALLY, "VORSTER: SAP TO STAY IN RHODESIA." HOWEVER, VORSTER DID NOT IN ANY WAY CLOSE DOOR ON POSSIBILITY OF EVENTUAL WITHDRAWAL OF SA POLICE FROM RHODESIA. NEVERTHELESS, WHATEVER HIS INTENTION, MANY SOUTH AFRICANS ARE GOING TO INTERPRET HIS REMARKS ON RHODESIA AS UNQUALIFIED CONTINUATION OF SUPPORT FOR IAN SMITH GOVERNMENT. BUT WHILE HIS ADDRESS, WHICH DESIGNED EVIDENTLY LARGELY FOR HOME CONSUMPTION, MAY PLEASE MANY WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS AND RHODESIANS, IT WILL NOT HELP SOUTH AFRICA'S CASE ABROAD, ESPECIALLY SAG EFFORTS TO CONVINCE BLACK AFRICAN STATES OF ITS GOOD INTENTIONS. VORSTER'S CONCERN FOR WHITE OPINION AT HOME REGARDLESS OF POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECT ABROAD ONCE AGAIN RAISES QUESTION ABOUT LIMITED BREADTH OF HIS VISION REGARDING FOREIGN AFFAIRS. END COMMENT.

5. ON MOZAMBIQUE, HE SAID SAG HAD ASKED PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT TO HONOR "CERTAIN AGREEMENTS" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES REGARDING PORTS, RAILWAYS, SUPPLY OF MOZAMBIQUE WORKERS TO SOUTH AFRICA, AND CABORRA BASSA POWER SCHEME. SOUTH AFRICA, VORSTER SAID, HAD BEEN GIVEN "CERTAIN GUARANTEES" IN THIS RESPECT AND, IF AGREEMENTS WERE FULFILLED, HE FORESAW GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND MOZAMBIQUE.

6. THEN, IN OUR VIEW PRIMARILY AIMING HIS REMARKS AT HOME AUDIENCE AGAIN, HE SAID HE HAD ASKED FOR AND RECEIVED GUARANTEES THAT MOZAMBIQUE WOULD NOT BE USED AS JUMPING-OFF PLACE FOR PEOPLE WHO WOULD WANT TO ATTACK SOUTH AFRICA. BUT BECAUSE OF CONTINUED SPECULATION IN SOUTH AFRICA ABOUT THIS, HE WANTED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT ALTHOUGH SOUTH AFRICA

WOULD NOT INTERFERE IN HER NEIGHBORS' AFFAIRS OR INITIATE
ANY HOSTILE ACTION, " WHATEVER IS STARTED BY SOMEBODY OUTSIDE
SOUTH AFRICA, SOUTH AFRICA WOULD FINISH IT."
EDMONDSON

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